

## ***National Whale Conservation Fund “Fishing Gear Mini-Grants” Program***

A special project of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
(NOAA Fisheries)

### **Purpose**

The *National Whale Conservation Fund (NWCF)* was established to support research, management, conservation and education/outreach activities related to the conservation, and recovery of whales. The NWCF is a special project of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization established by Congress in 1984. The Foundation operates the Fund under the direction of the National Whale Conservation Fund Advisory Council, a panel of conservation leaders and representatives of cooperating entities.

The “Fishing Gear Mini-Grants” program will fund projects that have a strong likelihood of reducing death and serious injury to large whales due to entanglements in fishing gear, and are consistent with applicable regulations pertaining to the Magnuson Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. This program provides competitive seed grants (\$2,000 - \$20,000) to creative and innovative proposals that seek to work with industry to significantly diminish whale entanglements in fishing gear.

### **Guiding Philosophy and Mission**

The *National Whale Conservation Fund* seeks to foster the conservation and recovery of large whales by supporting innovative research, management and education projects of high quality and promise. NWCF actively seeks to form new partnerships with corporations, organizations, and individuals to leverage NWCF’s resources sufficiently to meet its aggressive conservation goals.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Any U.S. citizen is eligible to receive assistance for an idea or method that has a strong likelihood of reducing death and/or serious injury to whales caused by entanglements. For those ideas or methods that involve at-sea time, the applicant must have all necessary local, state, and federal permits to conduct their fishing practices.

### **What kinds of gear proposals will be accepted?**

Proposals for the following grant-types may be submitted:

- *Idea Grants*: Grants that enable a person(s) to develop an idea into a process or object.
- *Pilot Grants*: Grants that enable a person(s) to construct a prototype from their idea or concept and carry out field-testing at sea on individual or multiple participating fishing vessels.

While this grant program focuses on two areas of emphasis, the overarching goal of the program is to address large whale death and/or serious injury from gear entanglement, with priority given to those projects that work with the industry toward useable solutions.

### **How do I apply?**

- Submit the application form found at <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/WhaleFund.htm>, or contact the NFWF or NOAA Fisheries contacts listed below to have a copy sent to you. This document should be three to four pages in length and will also serve as your contract should your project be selected.
- The downloadable application packet includes application instructions and tips for writing a competitive proposal

### **What are the funding limitations for this grants program?**

NWCF will not fund

- Political advocacy, boycotts or litigation;
- Indirect or unallocated expenses.

### **When are proposals due?**

This call for proposals covers **two** different project cycles with the following deadlines as funding is available:

- April 1 - with final funding decisions by May 31
- September 1 - with final funding decisions by October 31

Proposals must be received at the NFWF address below via email, fax, by hand or through the mail, no later than the above dates. Proposals can be submitted throughout the year. Proposals received after April 1, will be reviewed in September, proposals received after September 1, will be reviewed in the subsequent project cycle.

### **When will I hear about the status of our proposal?**

A letter indicating your projects competitiveness after the first stage of review will be sent out 21 days after the deadline. Notification letters of final funding decisions for all remaining projects will be sent out 60 days after each deadline.

### **Who can I contact with Questions?**

The *National Whale Conservation Fund – Fishing Gear Mini-Grants* program is a collaborative effort between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the NOAA Fisheries. For further information, please contact:

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Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036

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or

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